

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

GUNSMITH SENTENCED FOR UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE OF A MACHINE GUN

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 27, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Escondido gunsmith Michael Wayne Jackson was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff to serve eight months (plus 42 days previously served) in a Community Corrections Center following his conviction for the unlawful manufacture of firearms. Jackson pled guilty on April 21, 2004, pursuant to a plea agreement, to one count of engaging in the business as a manufacturer of firearms. The indictment charged Jackson with engaging in business as a manufacturer of firearms by converting a rifle into a machine gun and making silencers for the rifle and for two pistols.

At sentencing, Judge Huff noted that Jackson has undergone heart catheterization (angioplasty), has had two heart attacks, and underwent a triple bypass in August 2003. The court concluded that these problems constituted “an extraordinary physical impairment” justifying a downward departure from the Sentencing Guidelines.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward C. Weiner, who prosecuted the case, the charge against Jackson arose out of the investigation of co-defendant Ricky Edmundo Marquez for trafficking in ecstasy pills. Marquez allegedly supplied gun parts and Jackson fashioned them into machine guns with silencers. Marquez pled guilty on June 8, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and possession of an unregistered firearm. Marquez is scheduled for sentencing on October 18, 2004.

DEFENDANT:

Michael Wayne Jackson

SUMMARY OF CHARGE: Criminal Case No. 04cr0435-H

Unlawful manufacture of firearms
(26 U.S.C. §§ 5861(a) and 5871) (Count 5)

MAXIMUM PENALTY:

10 years in custody, \$250,000 fine

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES:

Drug Enforcement Administration/Narcotics Task Force
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives